

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 030920

EXDIS/FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 1769 (B) NEW DELHI 1767

(C) NEW DELHI 1598

1. I AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY AND USEFUL FOR YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR A PERIOD OF CONSULTATION IN EARLY APRIL. ORDERS WILL BE SENT TO YOU SHORTLY. PLEASE LET ME OR SPIKE DUBS KNOW OF ANY APPOINTMENTS THAT WE CAN SET UP FOR YOU, IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, TO REQUESTING CALLS ON THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR HERE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH YOU OUR INDIAN POLICY PAPER, WHICH IS NOW IN DRAFT STAGE.

2. WE HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR MESSAGE (REF B) SETTING FORTH YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR CURRENT APPROACH TO INDIA IN TERMS OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN SOUTH ASIA. WE

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HAVE ASKED THAT IT BE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE

SECRETARY AND SISCO, AND WE HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF REPEATING IT TO YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE AREA. WE CONCUR COMPLETELY IN THE TACTICS YOU ARE PURSUING AND APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE PURSUED. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER COMPLETELY

AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING SPECIFIC POLICY ISSUES IN SOME DEPTH WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE HERE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND TO A CABLE WE SENT TO BYROADE AND REPEATED TO YOU INDICATING THAT WE HAVE AGREED THAT A PAKISTAN AIR FORCE TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE A VISIT TO LTV'S DALLAS PLANT TO INSPECT THE A-7 AIRCRAFT.

CHANCES ARE, OF COURSE, THAT THIS VISIT MAY BECOME PUBLIC. IN THIS EVENT, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT OUT IN AS LOW-KEY A WAY AS POSSIBLE, MAKING CLEAR THAT NO DECISION ON THE ACTUAL SALE OF AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN MADE. BEARING IN MIND YOUR THOUGHTS IN REF B, I KNOW THAT THIS DECISION WILL BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA OF THE ISSUES YOU WILL WITH TO DISCUSS HERE.

3. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE CONCUR FULLY IN THE JUDGMENT EXPRESSED IN REF C THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA THIS YEAR LOOK RATHER DIM. IT IS LIKELY THAT INDIRA WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR SCAPEGOATS TO JUSTIFY HER INTERNAL ACTIONS, AND WE WILL REMAIN HIGH ON HER LIST IN THIS CONNECTION. WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE IMPLICATION THAT U.S. POLICY IS DIRECTED TOWARD DESTABILIZING THE SITUATION IN INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA, THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS IN BANGLADESH AND THAT USG AGENCIES MAY BE ACTIVE IN INDIA AND EXTENDING SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY TO SUCH OPPOSITION GROUPS AS THE DMK IN TAMIL NADU. THERE ARE NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER FOR SUCH ALLEGATIONS. REPEATED JABS AT US COMBINED WITH THE FURTHER EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN INDIA ARE BOUND TO MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR US TO JUSTIFY TO THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THE CONTINUATION OF COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS WITH INDIA. AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE PRESENT TREND CAN BE REVERSED.

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YOUR CONSULTATIONS WILL PROVIDE US WITH A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. SISCO

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